



# A newe enterlude


Drawen oute of the holy scripture  
of godly queene Hester, verie necessary  
newly made and imprinted, this pre  
sent yere. M.D.LXII.

Com nere vertuous matrons & womē kind  
Here may ye learne of Hesters duty,  
In all comelines of vertue you shal finde  
How to behaue your selues in humilitie.

## The names of the players.

The prologue	Pryde.
King Alsuer.	Adulation.
iii. gentlemen	Ambition.
Aman.	Hardy dardy.
Hardocheus	A Jewe.
Hester.	Arbona.
Pursueuant.	Scriba.

*First Edition.*







**T**he enterlude of the vertuous  
and godly Queene Hester.

**The prologue.**

**D**iuers Philosophers auncient and sage,  
Their clargy and cummyngs to put in practyse  
Ofte haue disputed by learning and language  
To whome greatest honour man ought to deuise  
Or for what cause, his reuerence shoulde aryse,  
And amonges manye, some were there doubtlesse,  
That concluded honour due vnto ryches

Some also to noble bloude, and high parayge  
Affirmed honour dewly to pertayne  
And some to policie and wysedome sage  
And some to power and superiall raigne,  
Eche man his reason sayde in certayne  
ouer this some said, that vertuous demenoure  
To bee excellent, and of mooste honour.

**T**he kyng sitting in a chaire speaketh to his counsell.  
**O**f these my lordes we woulde be glad to here,  
Whiche is most worthy honour to attayne  
By your high reasons we thynke it maye appeare,  
To speake therefore we praye you, your sentences plaine  
And as ye determine, so shall wee certaine,  
Aduaunce to honour, and to promotion applye  
Alwayes the best, and that bee most worthye.

*Primus generosus.*

Most dread soueraigne kinge Astuerus to your doughty  
(weygthy and lured, The first  
Of riches power, wisdom, vertue or noble bloude getleman  
Whiche is most soueraigne, and of highest honour

A.ii.

He

**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

He seames as vertue none can be so good,  
Not ryches nor power, wisdom nor gentill bludde.  
For wher vertue fayleth, the other be not suer,  
But full vnstable, and longe cannot indure.

Whoso wyll labour to ryse to peruse  
And them with diligence, often will rede  
May see and perceue, how vice dyd confuse,  
Many noble princes whiche were in dede,  
Of such magnificence, that we not nede  
To doubt of theyre riches, power and wisdom,  
And yet for lacke of vertue, vice them ouer came.

**Secundus Generosus.**

Nabuchodonozor, Senacherib, and Salmanasar,  
Nero Dyoctilian Marcellus also,  
All these princes of hye honoure were,  
Of ryches, power and wisdom also  
Of noble bloude, yet these and many mo,  
For lacke of vertue, to vice dyd fall,  
To theyre owne destruction & theyre subiectes all.

**Tertius Generosus.**

But then as me semeth, yt were expedient,  
Amonge all vertues apperteyninge to a prince,  
That came to knowe by some reason bygente,  
Whiche is so necessary to the prouince,  
That wythout yt in no wyse he can conuince,  
Neyther synne nor synners that vniustly deale,  
Nor in good order kepe his common weale,

**Primus Generosus.**

In myne oppynion that is Justice  
A vertue as excellent as may be.  
For all thinges it orderith in such wyse,

**That**



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

That where it is, is peace and tranquillitie,  
Good order, hygh honour, wealth and plentye,  
And where it fayleth in the prince or kyng,  
The common weale decayeth withoute tariyng

**Secundus Generosus.**

Beside Justice there muste bee Diligence,  
In hys owne personne that same to put in bye,  
Or els some tyme suche coloured sentence  
Under cloke of Justice ye maye be sure  
Craftely shall procede from them that haue the cure  
Which in proceste, may brynge to downfall,  
The kyng, hys realme & hys subiectes all.

The iudgement of Salamon, in his owne person,  
Betwene two women of lyuinge chaste,  
So feared Israell that utterye noone  
Durst once rebell, but they thought it waste  
In anye wyse to attempt eyther fyrst or laste  
Any thyng of displeasure to hys maiestye royall  
Fearyng hys wysedome and Justice so equall.

**Tertius Generosus.**

If by hys lieutenante had been Done the same,  
Hys honoure shoulde neuer haue spronge so farre  
Nor so much renowned by noble fame,  
As it is now & that both here & there  
Nor yet hys subiectes to such awe and feare,  
He coulde haue dryuen by no meanes at all  
As he dyd by hys iustice personall

And ouer thys many a noble man,  
At the prynces wyll and commaundmente,  
To employe iustice, dyd the best they can  
And yet the commons bnneth coulde be content  
And why: for in their mynde they thyncke verament

The Interlude of Quene Hester  
That either for riches & honour Iustis will doe  
And he onely, for the zeale that to Iustis he hath to  
Wherefore noble prince, if in your owne person will ye  
Employe Iustis the more your honour shall be

Kyng Alsewerus

My lordes we thanke you for your counsell  
As ye haue sayed, so thinke we verely  
That Iustis maintaineth þ common weale,  
And namely þ prince muste nedes him selfe appye,  
Unto the same, or els vtterly  
Shall folowe decay by warre or els death,  
Quoqz, si princeps malus populus coruet.

And ouer this if that his lieutenaunt,  
Shal happen to square from trueth and iustice,  
Albeit his faire wordes and good semblaunt,  
The prince must nedes be circumspect and wise,  
That no ambition nor couetise  
Through great welth and riches inordinat  
Doe erect his corage, for to play checkmate  
For though it be as well as it may neede,  
It shall be thought nay, I assure you in dede,  
Sir what is your name and progeny?

Amant.

One of  
þ getyill  
me must  
answere  
whyche  
you will

I am Amant sonne of Amadathy,  
Of the stocke of Agag borne lyniall ye,  
Alsewerus.

your learnyng and reason pleaseth vs well  
And ye seeme to be of discretion  
we beare ye therefore our fauour and zeale  
So that withoute meanes of intercession  
we make you our chanceloure, take hede to this lesson.

See



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

**See ye doe iustice and trueth euer approue  
Or to your destruction, we shall you soone remoue**

**Aman**

**My duty is more nowe then euer it was,  
Truly to serue youre moste noble grace,  
Both nyghte & day, here and in euery place.**

**Answerus**

**(et creat)**

**My lordes as nowe, thus standes the case,  
we are comfortles, for lacke of a Queene,  
whiche shoulde be our ioye, & chefe solace,  
And to say truth, it hath not been oft seene,  
But the prince with a princes matched hath beene  
Leaste defaulte of issue shoulde be, whiche God defende  
therfore youre counsellis firste had, to marry we do inted**

**Primus generosus.**

**Then let your officers peruse this realme,  
And of fayre maidens that be virgins pure,  
Of most goodly personages that may be sene  
Gather a great number, that we may make reporte  
Unto your grace, then may ye be sure  
To chose the beste, when ye haue them seene  
And that is fittest to be your quene.**

**Answerus**

**Call to vs Aman our trusty chaunceler.**

**Aman.**

**If it please your grace I am here,**

**Answerus.**

**Aman this is the counsel of my lordes all,  
That our officers in hast we shoulde sende  
To peruse this region vdiuersall  
from the begynnyng vnto the ende  
To seke faire maidens, where so thei may be kende**

**Here en  
trith A  
mā with  
māy mē  
awaitig  
on hym.**

**And**

**The Interlude of Quene Hester**

Here the kyng entreteth the  
trauersers a man go  
eth out.

And of most goodly personages that maye be sene  
To the intent among them we may chose a quene  
This is our minde, more to speake it shal not nede,  
In all that ye may, see it bee done in dede.  
There entreteth Hardocheus and a maiden with him.  
I am Hardocheus borne in Jerusalem,  
The sonne of Jaire, and of the stocke of Beniamy  
By Nabuchodonosor brought into this realme  
When he did subdue our kyng Iechony  
And translated the Jewes by conquest and victorie  
Both I and oger in number many one  
were brought in captiuitie, into the realme of Babilon

I haue here a maiden of the same nacion  
My brothers daughter named Edissa  
But Hester is her common denomination  
And by that well known, nam a deo missa  
God graunt her grace, that perseuer she maye,  
In wisdom and womanhead faythfull to bee  
Her espouse to loue in perfecte amitie.

So is it nowre oure kyng Alucrus,  
Dyuers Purseuauntes in great haste hathe sente,  
Ouer all hys realme in these parties nere vs,  
To seeke faire maidens is his entent  
To chose amonge theym one conuenient,  
To bee his quene and Lady Soueraigne,  
In loue and honour with him for to raigne.

And for as muche daughter Hester that you  
Amonge other are appoynted for one,  
I thycke it acco:dyng therefore nowe,

To



**The Interlude of Quene Hester**

To giue you mine aduise and instruction,  
Attende ye therfore without interruption  
And by faithfull mind, and stedfast memozye  
That I shall saye, learne it diligentlze.

**Hester.**

Noble Hardocheus my father moste kynde,  
To that ye shall saye I wyll applye my mynde.

**Hardocheus.**

Than yf the kinge chose you to his queene  
It is of hys goodnes, bountie and grace  
And for none youre merites, the truthe to bee scene  
Therefore to hym repaye muste you needes obedience  
Trew loue and kyndnes, aboue personnes all  
Not forged nor fayned, but with affection cordiall.

Breake not the course that queenes haue hadde  
In this noble region most part of all,  
They haue aye bene good, and none of theym badde,  
To their prince euer sure, iust and substanciall  
And good to the comunions when they dyd call  
By mekenes for mercye, to temper the fyre  
Of rigours iustice in fume or in yre

**Hester.**

Thys counsell is perfecte and also so pure  
I graunt it therfore, and promyse you sure  
It is my whole mynde and hartye desyre  
That same to fulfyll, as reason shall requyre.

**Durleuaunt.**

I haue here of maydens a fayre companye  
Of comlye stature and goodly visage  
Which to the king I thynke by and by  
For to present, and to hys counsell sage,  
For their promotion, wealth and marriage,

Here en-  
tith pur-  
suante  
with ma-  
nye may-  
dens.

**B.i.**

**Sane**

The enterlude of queene Hester.

Salve before wyth Harbocheus the Iew,  
I muste speake for Hester, that is so fayre of hew.

Harbocheus.

She is here redy, and doth attende,  
The kynges commaundment to fullfyll,  
And at youre pleasure forth shall she wende,  
wyth out resystance, and by her good wyll.

Pursyuaunt.

Then shall I brynge her the kyng vntyll.  
Come on lady Hester, and followe me

Here A. To the kyng shall ye goe with youre cumpany.  
man me.

tythe the Syr pursyuaunt haue ye these maydens broughte,  
in þ place for the kyng. lyke as ye had in commaundement.

Pursyuaunte

yea syr and for them, farre haue I soughte,  
Both in byllage cotone and tenemente,  
I truste I haue done trewe seruike and dyligente.

Aman

So are ye bounde by very dewty  
Of youre allegeaunce and fydelitye,  
Se that ye follow vs wyth youre hole cumpany.

Pursyuaunt.

As ye haue sayed so shall it be.

Aman.

Pleasyth it youre grace, accordynge your mynde  
we haue made serche all youre regyon,

Thē thei go to the kyng.  
for goodly maydens of nature fyne and kynde,  
And of them haue founde in myne oppnyon  
A number ryght fayre and of complexion

So puer and of so fayre visage,  
That they surmounte all other in personage.

Auerus.



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

**Alluerus.**

Are they also of suche competent age  
Of suche demeanour and grauitie,  
That they be fytt for oure mariage.

**Aman.**

Uppon a profe youre grace shall heare and see,  
As well they? wysedome as they? beautye.

**Alluerus.**

Sertis they be sayre and goodly eche one,  
And as it maye seme by they? fyrst countenaunce  
Both by looke and gestur, nature and complexion,  
In theym shoulde be kyndnes, myrth, and dalyaunce  
Wysedome, sadnes, and in loue perseueraunce,  
Constauncie knit wyth comlines, ioy to encrease  
Vertue with good demenour, pleasure to put in presse,

But ye sayre damsell of the highest stature,  
And of most ripe age, as shoulde seme  
Of all this companye of most fynest nature.  
Tell vs your linage, for as yet we deame,  
your lookes be so lusty, and in loue so breme  
If that your demenour hereafter be sene  
To that accor dyng, ye shalbe our quene.

**Hester.**

Moste noble Prince as for my linage,  
Nor yet my countrey, sertis I can not saye  
My parentes dicelless in myne none age,  
So that I neuer harde yet unto thys daye  
what coste or countrey, what lande or laye,  
I was bred in, broughte forth or borne,  
It is to me vnknown, as aye hath bene before,  
Notwithstandyng, I hadde had foode and fostyring  
Of Hardocheus all my lyf dayes,

**B.ii.**     **whome**

The enterlude of Quene Hester.

whom I called father in my yonge age,  
And so intend to do eftsoms and alwaies,  
whome for his frendshippe I haue good cause to prayse,  
Beseechinge youre grace and that mooste mekely,  
To my sayd foster father good lo:de for to be

Alsewerus

Call in Hardocheus, that we may see his face.

Hardocheus.

I am here to attende vpona yonre grace,

Alsewerus

Hardocheus what call you, yonre daughter.

Hardocheus.

If it please youre grace her name is Hester  
Assuringe you, she is a virgin puer,  
A pearle vndeiled and of conscience cleare  
Sober, sad, sentill, meke and demure,  
In learninge and litterature, profoundely seene,  
In wisdom, eke semblante to Saba the Quene  
Fytt for any prince to haue in marriage,  
In his pleasure agree to her personage,

Alsewerus.

ye say ryghte well, then we thynke it expedient,  
Some what to proue by communication  
Her lernynge and her language eloquent  
And by some probleme of hys dubitation,  
To knowe her aunswere and consultation  
Howe saye you Hester haue you ought reade or seene  
Of vertues that be best, and fittest for a queene.

Hester.

To speake before a king, it is no childes playe,  
Therefore I aske pardon, of that I shall saye

Alsewerus.



**The interlude of Quene Hester.**

**We pardone you what soeuer ye saye,**

**Hester.**

Then to bee bolde ryghte well I maye  
No quene there is, but by marriage of a pryncer,  
And vnder couert according to the lawe,  
So that the iurisdiction of the whole prouince;  
To the kinge pertaineth this is the trewe sawe  
Albeit, sometyme more for loue than for awe  
The king is content to bee counselled by the queene;  
In many sundrye causes, as ofte hath been seene,

which sentence is sure and grounde with reason,  
But yet not wythstandynge this is not all  
But oftsones it may chaunce at sundrye season  
The kynge wyth hys counsell most parte of all  
From this realme to be absente, when warre doth call.  
Then the Quenes wyldome, sadly muste deale,  
By her greate vertue, to reuole the common weale.

Wherfore as many vertues be there muste,  
Euen in the Quene as in the pryncer,  
For feare lest in warre, some treason vniust,  
The realme shoulde subdewe, and falsely conuince.  
The Quene muste sauegarde all the hole prouince,  
And so as muche goodnes eye muste be seene,  
As in the kynge to be in the Quene,  
And how many vertues longe to a kynge,  
Lyke vnto your grace I cannot make recknyng.

**Alsewerus.**

Then I doute not, but the wyldome of vs two  
Knytte both to gether in partytte charyite  
All thynges in thys realme shall cumpas so,

The enterlude of Quene Hester.  
By truth and Iustice, law and equitye,  
That we shall quenche all vice and deformitie  
Hester.

Then at my beginning I beseeche youre grace  
That I may shew my mynd, whyle I haue time & space  
Aluerus.

Speake at your libertie, I wyl heare it gladlye.  
Hester.

Then I wyl be playne, for veritie hath no pere  
And for a principall of thys my tale,  
And eke his subiectes both greate and smale,  
In honoure and wealth: yea, all the prouince,  
So riche and so stronge, that they maye conuince  
All their enemyes where so euer they dwell,  
That woulde inuade, resiste, or rebell,

And where goddes seruyce and hospitalitie  
Doeth decaye, and almes to the poore all,  
There maye be wealth in places two or thre  
But I assure you the most part in generall,  
Neither haue meate nor money, nor strength substantial  
Fytte to doe you seruice, when ye haue nede  
Whiche is no good order, me thynkes in very dede

Let God alwaye therfore haue hys parte  
And the poore fedde by hospitalitie  
Eche man his measure, be it pynte or quarte,  
And no man to muche, for that is great ioberdie,  
I meane to lose all, as I doe feare me,  
For when all is gathered together on a heape  
It may sone be conueyed cariage is good cheape,  
Thys I speake with trew heart and mynde,

Besechinge



The interlude of Queene Hester.  
Beseeching your grace to take it in good kynde.  
Aluerus.

Of these matters another tyme moore at large,  
We shall speake, and of dyuers other mo.  
Aman, see our seruauntes doe accomplishe their charge,  
To awayte vpon oure Queene, and that also  
In haste vnto oure wardrobe see ye goe,  
For riche apparell of golde and pall  
As well for her selfe, as for her ladyes all,  
Aman.

Than if it please you to licence the Queene,  
As to her pleasure awhyle shall beseeme  
Aluerus.

And we for a season thys busynesse wyll cease,  
And oure selfe repose for our pleasure and ease.

There entreth Pryde synngynge  
pooely arayed.

To men that be heny, & wold faine be mery  
Though they feele smarte:  
Oft chace such reckning, & with their mouth they sing,  
Though they wepe in their hart.  
Sometime they daunce, with mery couテナunce,  
When they had leuer slepe:  
Eke they laugh & grin, whē by this sunne I wyll  
In the heart they wepe.  
Who so will accord, with this double world  
Must vse suche artes:  
Outwardly kinde, in his heart a fende,  
A knaue of two partes.  
Outward honestie, inward infidelitie,  
Bothe rydes on a mule:  
In peace he is bolde, but in war he is colde,

That

Here de-  
partith &  
queene &  
Aman &  
all & mai-  
dens.

The enterlude of Musene Hester.

That soonest wyll recouyle.

Manye bee that proffers, but fewe that offers,  
Deuoutelye in theyr hearte:

They saye they can doe all, but when neede doeth befall,  
They begynne to starte.

He that is double, loues alwaye trouble,  
And at no tyme wyll ceale:

And yet he wyll not fight, by daye nor yet by nyghte,  
In warre nor in peace.

But such men by battail, may get corne and cattell  
Bullyon and plate:

And yf they once get it, let vs no moore craue it,  
By GOD we comme to late.

Cyther to begge or borowe, except shame or sorowe,  
Dyspleasure and hate.

Syris my name is pryde, but I haue layde asyde,  
All my goodlye araye:

ye wyne I lye, there is a cause why,  
That I goe not gaye.

I tell you at a worde, A man that newe lorde,  
Hathe bought vp all good clothe,  
And hath as many gobones, as would serue ten towne  
Be ye neuer so lothe:

And any manne in the towne, doe by him a good gobone,  
He is verrye wrothe.

And wyll hym stryke fell, the statute of apparell,  
Shall teache hym good:

wherefore by this daye, I dare not goe gaye  
Threde bare is my hoode.

Pryde was wonte to be, a man of iolytye,  
Of hye countenaunce and face:

And since A man raygned, no man hym retayned,

Almost



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

**Allmoste in any place.**

**For Aman that else, woulde no man but hym selfe,  
Shoulde be proude in dede.**

**For as men say, all pryde he taketh away,  
well, God sende him good spede.**

**Adulation.**

**And as for Adulation, must chaunge his occupation  
It is not worth a pease.**

**Pryde.**

**why so?**

**Adulation.**

**For my lorde Aman, doeth al that he can  
I assure you without doubt:  
To take bp al flatterers, & al crafty clatterers  
That dwell fourtye myle aboute.**

**Pryde.**

**yea but the lawe shal, by order substancial,  
Punyshe all those:**

**Adulation.**

**yea, I wil tel you one thing, lawe now & flatterynge  
Aye together gose.**

**Pryde.**

**why so?**

**Adulation.**

**For al lawe est & west, & adulation in his chest  
Aman hath locked faste:  
And by his crafti patterig, hath turned lawe into flatter:  
So that fyist and laste, (ring,  
The client must pay, or the lawyer assaye  
The lawe for to clatter:  
And whē ye wene he saide right, I assure you by this  
He doth not els but flatter.**

**C.i.**

**(light  
Pryde**

The enterlude of quene Hester

Hyde. why for

Adulation.

For yf I man wyntes, the lawyers wyntes,  
And not dare saye yea nor naye.  
And yf he speake the lawe, the other calles hym dabo  
No more then dare he say.  
So that was law yisterday, is no lawe thys daye,  
But flatterynge lasteth alway, ye may me beleue.

Hyde.

Dyuiues h do preache, me thynkes they should teache  
And flatterynge reproue.

Adulation.

Syr they haue leste prechyng, & take them to flatteringe  
Hoske parte of them all.

Hyde.

I marueyle of that.

Adulation.

Do ye marueyle, mary I wyll you tell,  
A cause substantiall.  
When they preached, and the truthe teached,  
Sumc of them caughte a knocke,  
And they h should assited, I wote not how they were  
But they dyd nothyng but mocke. (bysted,

And that sawe they, and gate them away,  
As faste as myghte be.

They solde theyr woll, and purchased a bull,  
wyth a pluralyte.

And leste predication, and toke adulation,  
And what by mendation, and dyspensation,  
They gat the nomynation, of euery good benefyce.

So better by flatterynge, then by prechyng,  
To wealche they dyd aryle.

But



The enterlude of Quene Hester.  
But yet ye muste beware.

Prude.

Where of:

Adulation.

That they do not square, farre beyonde the marke  
For yf yt be a good fee, A man sayeth that longeth to me  
Be yt benefyce or parke

If he espy to þ pꝛodotiō, he wyll streyt geue him a portiō  
A lappe of a thousande markes,  
He shalbe purged cleane, he shall singe neither treble nor  
Nor yet speake one worde. (meane,

Prude.

As he well seene in adulation:

Adulation.

He is wardē of þ occupatiō, without all iestige boorde  
And no man so hardy, but by hys auctozite,  
The same to vse.

Here entryth Ambytion.

No for yf he doe, he were better no,  
Hys braynes he wyll confesse.

Prude.

Enhy who arte thou?

Ambytion.

He that can tell how, A man bleseth to worke.

Prude.

Is not Ambytion thy name?

Ambytion.

yes for god þ same, I was wonte to be a great clarke  
But syn A man bare reuole, neyther horse nor mule,  
But ys as wyse as I

C.ii.

Adulation.

**The enterlude of quene Hester**

**Wyde.**

**why for**

**Adulation.**

**For yf I man wyntes, the lawyers whynkes,  
And not dare saye yea nor naye.  
And yf he speake the lawe, the other calles hym Dabo  
No more then dare he say.  
So that was law yisterday, is no lawe thys daye,  
But flatterynge lasteth alway, ye may me beleue.**

**Wyde.**

**Dyuiues y do preache, me thynkes they should teache  
And flatterynge reproue.**

**Adulation.**

**Syr they haue leste prechyng, & take them to flatteringe  
Moste parte of them all.**

**Wyde.**

**I marueyle of that.**

**Adulation.**

**Do ye marueyle? mary I wyll you tell,  
A cause substantiall.  
When they preached, and the truthe teached,  
Some of them caughte a knocke,  
And they y should assited, I wote not how they were  
But they dyd nothyng but mocke. (bysted,**

**And that sawe they, and gate them away,  
As faste as myghte be.**

**They solde theyr woll, and purchased a bull,  
wyth a pluralyte.**

**And leste predication, and toke adulation,  
And what by mendation, and dyspensation,  
They gat the nomynation, of euery good benefyte.**

**So better by flatterynge, then by prechyng,  
To wealthe they dyd aryse.**

**But**



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

**But yet ye muste beware.**

**Pryde.**

**where of:**

**Adulation.**

**That they do not square, farre beyonde the marke  
fo: yf yt be a good fee, A man sayeth that longeth to me  
Be yt benefyce or parke**

**If he espy to þ p:dotio, he wyll streyt geue him a portio  
A lappe of a thousande markes,  
He shalbe purged cleane, he shall singe neither treble no:  
No: yet speake one wo:de. (meane,**

**Pryde.**

**Is he well seene in adulation:**

**Adulation.**

**He is wardē of þ occupatio, without all iestige boode  
And no man so hardy, but by hys auctozite,  
The same to vse.**

**Here entryth Ambytion.**

**No fo: yf he doe, he were better no,  
Hys braynes he wyll confesse.**

**Pryde.**

**enhy who arte thou:**

**Ambytion.**

**He that can tell how, A man bseth to worke.**

**Pryde.**

**Is not Ambytion thy name:**

**Ambytion.**

**yes fo: god þ same, I was wonte to be a great clarke  
But syn A man bare reuole, neyther ho:se no: mule,  
But ys as wyse as I**

**The interlude of quene Hester  
Adulation.**

**How so:**

**Ambytion.**

For all rebolers & lawes, were made by fooles & dāwes  
He sayeth verely.

O: dynances & foundation, without consyderation,  
He sayeth were deuyled.

Therfore hys imagination, bringes all out of fashion  
And so all is dysguised.

Sum tyme where was plenty, now þ barnes be empty  
And many men lackes bread.

And wher somtyme was meat, there now is none to get  
But all be gone and dead.

Beggars now do banne, and crye out of Arian,  
That euer he was borne.

They swere by the roode, he eatyth bp all their foode,  
So that they gett no good, neyther euen nor moene.

And many that be poze, though not from dooze to dooze  
A begginge they dyd goe:

yet had they releefe, bothe of breade and beefe,  
And dryncke also.

And now the doze standes shet, and no man can we get,  
To worcke neither to fyghte.

wherefore yf warre should chaunce, eyther wyth Scot,  
Thys geare woulde not goe ryght. (land o: fraunce,

**Adulation.**

And where is all this become:

**Ambition.**

As for þ domin<sup>9</sup> vobiscū, I dare say nothinge but mfi,  
Not tyll an other tyme.

**Pryde.**

All this is out of season, and nothing done by reason,



The enterlude of Queene Hester.

No: yet by good ryme.

Adulation.

How say you ambition, haue ye not prouision, for to  
get promotion, as ye were wonte to do:

Ambition.

No by my holydame, for my lord Aman  
Handelles all thyng so,  
That euery office and fee, what so euer it bee,  
That maye bee sene and founde:  
By his wit he myl it featche, and or it fal he will it catche  
That neuer commeth to the grounde.  
So that I repent, that euer I went,  
Vnto the scoles:  
For his large commission, maketh me Ambition  
To dwell amonge fooles.

Dyde.

And is there no remedye:

Adulation.

None that I can spee, whyle he doeth raygne.

Ambition.

Then lette vs make merye, euen tyll we dye,  
And dryue pynne awaye:

Dyde.

I hearde once a fryer, as trewe a lyer,  
As anye in the countrey:  
Hee preached veramente, that oure testamente,  
Alwaye readye shoulde bee.

Adulation.

For at oure deathe, we shall lacke breathe,  
And than fare well wees.

Ambition.

Then mayster Dyde, begynne thys tyde,

C.iii.

Let

**The enterlude of Dulene Hester.**  
**Let vs here youre fashion.**

**adulation.**

**and ye shall here nexte, euen the playne texte,**  
**Of me adulation**

**Pryde.**

**Then by and by, ye shall heare playnely,**  
**wythout impedimente,**

**The tenour of my wyll, if ye take hede there but yll**  
**This is my testament.**

**All my presumptuous pryde, whether he goe or ryde,**  
**Nowe or elles than:**

**My heart and corage, for power and language**  
**I geue it vnto Aman.**

**Let him kepe of my pryde what he wil, the reste deuide**  
**amonge hys whole Garde:**

**and when they haue it all, what they wyll dooe w<sup>th</sup> hall**  
**aduyce them afterwarde.**

**If pryde haue a fall, let them be content w<sup>th</sup> hall**  
**as I am nowe:**

**For as for Pryde, lasteth but a tyde,**  
**I assure you.**

**If to it longe shame, let them a goddes name,**  
**Take them bothe:**

**For as I feare mee, so muste it needes bee,**  
**Bee they neuer so lothe.**

**Adulation.**

**and I adulation, of the same fashion,**  
**at thys tyme present,**

**To recoorde euerye man, geue vnto aman,**  
**By thys my testament.**



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

All my subtiltie, a forged fydelite,  
To hym and hys espyes.

I woot they wyl it vse, trewe men to conserue,  
and that craftely.

And yf they do in dede, I pray god they may speede,  
Euen as honestly,

As he that from slepyng, goth to sent thomas watryng  
In his yong age.

So they from pytter pattour, may cume to tytter totur  
Euen the same pylgrimage.

**Ambition.**

And I Ambytion, had a comission,  
By force of a bull,

To gett what I could but not as I wolde,  
Neyther of lambe nor wooll.

The bull nor the calfe, coude please the one halfe,  
Of my feruente desire.

But euer I thought by god, there was I woulde haue  
when I was neuer the nere. (had)

Therfore all my ambition, to gether in a comission,  
Under my seale,

I geue it to aman, to the intent that Sathan,  
Shal loue hym well:

That whyle he is here, he maye styll desyre,  
and yet neuer the nere: Sometyme to bee,  
and when he goeth hence, he maye with him dispence,  
By a large facultye.

That for his lynes seuen, or he come to heauen,  
wyth out bourde or game.

Somtyme or tyde, he may for his pryde,  
Suffer some shame.

**Pryde.**

**Nota**

The enterlude of Quene Hester.  
Nowe by wades myll, eueryc mans wyll  
Is wonderously well:

Adulation.

And by my holydome, I wene it be wysedome,  
For folke often chat, howe men dye in estat e,  
But so shall not wee:

Ambition.

No by saint An, but yet my Lorde Aman,  
Neuer the better shalbe:

Pryde.

No forse so god me saue, yf we our wyll myght haue  
we woulde he shoulde neuer thee.

Nowe made is our testament, I praye you be content  
Some myrthe to denyse.

Adulation.

Let vs beginne with singynge, and conclude with this  
It is the newe gyle: (kynges)

Ambition.

Then let vs beginne a songe, that wyl last euen as long  
As hence to the tauerne doze.

Aman.

(Et exeunt.)

Thei de-  
part sing-  
yng, and  
Amen en-  
treth.

Moste noble prynce, and of highest wysedome  
I do not doubte of youre considaction,  
But that you knowe what I haue bene, eke what I am,  
Bothe in wyll and wooorde, and occupation,  
Of assured thoughte without adulation,  
And as glad to doe seruice vnto your grace  
As euer I was to liue anye tyme or space.

And for the same great malice I do sustayne,  
Both of your nobles and communaltie  
To my greate greuaunce and merueylous payne,  
And eke further, I feare the ieoperdye



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

Of my lyfe, goodes, credence and honestie,  
To cease their malyce, vnlesse you put in vze  
your power royall, I can not longe endure.  
The sclaúderous reportes, the lyes þe made  
The faine d detractions and contumilious  
The rimes the railinges, so farre sette abrode  
Both payntyð and púntyð in moste shamefull wyse  
And god to recorde all is but leasinges and lyes.  
was neuer made on man lyke as is on me  
Only for aplyment of law and equite.

In so much that of late now in dede  
Before all the commings vpon myne and me,  
Moste dānable reportes ware sett a brode,  
To my dy honour and shamefull brilany,  
And all that were there of that cūpanye,  
As I myghte see by theyre countenaunce and voice,  
That same alowed and greatly dyd reioyce  
wherfore noble prince I beseeche youre grace,  
Let me be remoued another to haue my place

**Aluerus.**

Aman we harde wyth deliberation,  
Uttered and pronounsed by language cleare,  
A very elygante and prudente oracion  
Of you as euer so fore was seene  
By whose tenour we knowe what ye meane,  
And haue ye no doughte so shall we for you provide  
That youre enemies shall damage you on no syde.  
we knowe ryght well the wordes enuious to be  
One agaynste an other for ice and office  
But that to regarde in no wyse nede ye,  
As longe as ye obserue tructh and iustyce,  
from the which we woulde that in no wyse

The enterlude of quene Hester.  
ye shoulde degresse for if ye do in dede,  
yours owne distruction shortly ye shall brede,  
But for yours comforte hearken what I shall tell,  
And for more assistance in this that ye do feare,  
we make you lieutenante to reuole Israell,  
Take heare these robes see ye do them weare,  
Take this golden wand in yours hande to beare,  
A token of honour and of estate ryall,  
God sende you contynuaunce and well to do with all;  
Aman.

Noble pryncce accordinge as I am bounde,  
I will do you seruice tyll death me confounde,  
Assuerus.

For a season we wyll to our solace  
Into our orcharde or some other place,  
Hardyhardy.

Here the kynge en-  
treth the  
trauerse  
a Hardy  
dardy en-  
treth the  
place.  
A prouerbe as men say a dogge hath a day,  
when so euer that it chaunce  
He that wyll drinke wine and hath neuer a vine,  
Muste sende or goe to fraunce.  
And yf he do not, endure he cannot,  
He muste nedes shrinke,  
Shrinke yea say that againe, for it is a greate paine,  
To be with out drinke.  
In such case am I, I sweare by goddes pety,  
I lacke both drinke and meate.  
But as I say, a dogge hath a day,  
for now I truste to get.  
My tyme is come for to get some,  
If I be not lett.  
It is the common worde Aman is a lord.  
And Aman is of price,

And



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

And hath perdye all this cuntrie

At his rwele and deuice.

And I trust to be one of his yemanty,

To weare his bage and marke.

An office I wold beare and it noughte elles to heare,

But the keper of his parke.

Alman.

He seames ye are not fycte.

Hardy Dardy.

ye wene I lacke wytte it may well be so,

yet afole when it doth happe may somtyme chaunce to  
when wyse men wyll not well. (stoppe a gappe

Alman.

Fooles largely will bourde and tell al theyr thought.

Hardy Dardy.

And wyse men well not speke one worde till all become

Alman.

(to nought

fooles will tell all and that troubleth soze,

Hardy Dardy.

And wyse men will say nought at al till al be gone & more

Alman.

fooles to Idlenes all wayes be prest.

Hardy Dardy.

And wyse men vs such busines it were better they

Alman.

(were at rest

fooles let the reformation of common wele.

Hardy Dardy.

And wyse men be so full of imaginacion,

they wot not how they deale.

Alman.

whyse men wolde do ryght,

And folcs say nay.

D.ii.

And

**The enterlude of quene Hester**

**Hardydardy.**

**And fooles be layne to fyght when wise men tūne away**

**Aman.**

**Fooles spend all tyll they haue nought**

**Hardydardy.**

**And wise men carry all tyll they dare no moze craue.**

**Aman.**

**ye are a foole ye do but clatter.**

**Hardydardy.**

**Many go to scole tyll they can flatter**

**Aman.**

**Leaue youre clatter, lest ye cume tardy.**

**Hardydardy.**

**It makes no matter for my name is Hardydardy**

**Aman.**

**Is youre name Hardydardy.**

**Hardydardy.**

**yea þ is it verily, I wold if it plesse ye,**

**Be one of your yomanrie.**

**Aman.**

**As for that let it passe we take you for our solace,**

**And mirthe sumtime to ken.**

**Hardydardy.**

**I wene by goddes grace one foole in a place,**

**Doth wel! amonge wise men**

**ye must nedes laughe amonge & if a foole singe a songe,**

**I holde you than a grose.**

**Some wise man muste be fayn sumtime to take þ paine**

**To do on a fooles cote.**

**And than perchaunce it is not redie.**

**Aman.**

**well**



The enterlude of Queene Hester.

well ye can speake merely wherewith I am contente  
Sirs carrie you a season se that farre ye not walke,  
I will to the kinge secretly to talke.

Moste victorius prince & of higheste honour  
Rumate of the worlde and president chiefe,  
By whose wisdom and polittike demeanoure,  
All the worlde at this day takes relese,  
Both kynge page and lord yea in sentence breste,  
No realme nor region able were to stande,  
Onles your counsell with them be at hande.

who compelleth lordes to mainteine their nobilite,  
who lerneth knyghtes theyr feates marciall.

O: who religion subdewith to humilite,  
who haue craftes and laborers the worlde ouer all,  
In ciuill cytie or village ryall.

Compelleth eche man to hys order and place,  
But only the wisdom and polyre of your grace,  
your strength defendith your wisdom saueyth all,

your plentye releuith the almoste euery man

Such is your honour and order ryall

That none other counsell at this day canne,  
Reache nor attaine to know how or whan,  
Lyke good order or honorable guise,  
As you by wisdom dayly do debice,

So is it your grace from very base parage,  
And poore estate me to hye honour haue brought,  
For none my vertues nor wisdom sage,  
But onely youre gooddes haue made me of nought,  
God is mi iudge it is therfore mi thoughte,  
And dayly study aboue all worldly treasure  
That thing to do, that is your wealth and plasure.

And yf it please your grace therfore to here,

**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

One thyng as I shall make rehersall,  
whan I haue saide I thinke it shall apeare,  
To your pleasure and profitte substanciall,  
And to be playne this is it fyrste of all.  
A greate number of Jewes with in this realm do dwell  
A people not goode, nor for youre common weale,

They be dispersed ouer all youre prouince,  
with in them selfe dwellyng, deseuered from our nation,  
By theyr new lawes they think to conuince,  
And eke drabo vnto theyr conuersation,  
And vnto theyr ceremonies and faction  
Of our people as many as may be,  
Intendyng to subdew all gentilitie,

Whore ouer the preceptes of your lawe,  
They refuse and haue in great contempte  
They wyll in no wise liue vnder awe,  
Of any pryncce but they wil be exempte,  
wherby good order may sone be interempte,  
And occasion is as I do feare me  
your subiectes to rebell in hope of lyke liberte.

And youre grace knoweth it is expediente,  
Theyre mallice to increace thus by sufferannce,  
for by that may chaunce greate inconuenience,  
And to all your realme importune perturbance,  
For theyre possessions be of substance  
So greate and so large that I feare at the length,  
They wyll attempte to subdew you by strengthe.

My counceill therfore to auoide leoperdy,  
If that your grace by your power ryall,  
Shall geue sentence and plainly decree,  
To slea these Jewes in your realme ouer all,  
None to escape let your sentence be generall,



The entevlude of Queene Hester.  
ye shall by that wyne to say I dare be bolde,  
To your treasure. x. thousande pound of golde,  
Aluerus.

My lord Alman we haue harde ryght well,  
All your cration which is so elegante,  
And so well towoched that nedes we muste fele,  
And perceyue your minde your wordes be so pregnant,  
And as touchinge the Jewes which be so valiaunte,  
Both of goodes and greete poession,  
we do agree vnto theyre suppression.

we ryghte well perceiue that vnto them drawe,  
Much of our people and ientile nation,  
which to our honour and also to our lawe  
Muste nedes be a greete derogation,  
I meane to brynge all out of facion  
To quenche them therefore we be contented well,  
In token wherof holde here a ringe and seale.

Alman.

Of your sentence there shall not lacke one clause,  
But all shall be done and that without pause,  
The Pursuauantes call to vs shortly.

Pursuauantes.

It lyke you we are here.

Alman.

These letters deuised we wolde ye shoulde aplye,  
To bere furth and that dyligently,  
with as much haste as may be,  
To the reuolers of euery towne and cite,  
Streightly commaunding theim all that they maye  
The same to execute at their prefixed day.

Pursuauant.

To his hye pleasure we shall make vs preste,

And

The interlude of Quene Hester.  
And tyll it bee done, we myll take no reste,  
Aman.

We be glad we haue attained our purpose,  
I trust it shall abate the hie corage  
Of Harbocheus, and eke all those  
That be hys chyantes brynge to repentaunce:  
Hardydardye.

Har y syr they be lyke to take penaunce,  
It woulde greue any man yonge or olde of age  
without his head to goe on pylgrimage  
Aman.

Thei haue deserued it, and they shall haue it  
It is for theym accordynge:  
Hardydardye.

If I shoulde betwray, that some men doe saye,  
It were a mad bourdynge.  
Aman.

Say what ye lyst.  
Hardydardye.

So woulde I, yf wiste ye wolde not angrye  
Aman.

ye haue libertie, as ye pleased be,  
To stande or tumble:  
Hardydardye.

Men say in dede, ye shall lose your head,  
And that woulde make you stumble.  
Aman.

why so:  
Hardardye.

Thei say it is conuenient, shoulde be fulfilled y<sup>e</sup> testament  
Of Ambition, Adulation and Pride:  
They gaue you all their pryde and flatterynge,

and



The enterlude of Quene Hester.

And after that saint thomas watring there to rest a tide  
And men thynke at hoste, with them was the holy  
Theyre testament was made so holily, (ghoste,  
wherfore all that they sayed cannot be take or sayed,  
But as a prophesie.

Alman.

well ye are verely, disposed merely,  
Now for to talke.  
And I am suerly minded secretely,  
For my iolace to walke.

Et exeat.

Here entreteth a Jew and speaketh.

O lord what a thinge is crudelite,  
whan to it is annexed couetous and pride,  
It destroyeth both towne and contrey  
Eke all regions on euery syde,  
All is for him to lyttell his mowthe is so wide,  
His rigour rauinous spares not to spill,  
Both man and chylde to haue his owne will:

This rauinous wolfe Alman I do meane,  
That hath perswaded the kynge to kill and slea,  
And from all this prouince to auoid cleane,  
All men and women and children that be,  
Jewes borne and of the Jewes consanguinite,  
The precept is set bp men to remember  
And it shalbe executed the xiii. day of December,  
Alas that euer shoulde fortune suche rage,  
from so rauered acaptyse to procede,  
It is his mynde my head I ley to gage,  
All those to slea: I assure you in deede  
That wyll not by flattery hys presumptions fede,  
He woulde be glorified aboue creatures all,  
And yet I trust as Lucifer depe he shal fal.

Another Jewe.

C.i. The

**The interlude of quene Hester**

The Mantuans thought it a greate punishmente,  
To be proscribed from theyre goodes and lande,  
As reciteth Virgill that Poet eloquente,  
Much more is our payne ye may vnderstande,  
That shall lose our lyues vnles god take in hande,  
Us to deliuer or els we not canne,  
Auoide the murder of this carnifer Aman:

**Another Jew.**

He shall by this murder our goodes wyne,  
And him selfe enlarge his pride to auance,  
And when he hath all he shall be new to begynne,  
Euer more to gett by some other chaunce.

**Hardocheus.**

yet at the laste all shall cume to mischaunce,  
For both him and his god shall make tame,  
And for theyre pride and pyllage, sende them worldly  
Hester.

(Name:)

Hardocheus wyth youre cumpanye,  
we haue harde youre lamentation,  
To our greife and displeasure berely,  
yet we truste by meke supplication,  
Fyiste vnto god by humble oration  
And than to the king by desyre cordyall  
A meane to fynde, for to sauegarde ye all  
than the Call in the chapell to the intent they maye  
chappeil Syng some holy hymne to spede vs this day  
do singe. After this prayer and our former abstyneng  
To the good Lorde I call for cunforte  
To inspyre the prynce, & his mynd incence  
That I may optayne now at my resorte  
To redeme the Jewes, all the hole sorte  
Eke to dysclose the falsed fauell and fraude.



The enterlude of Quene Hester,  
Of this cruell Aman to thy prayse & laude  
Assuerus.

O goodly Hester our most noble Quene,  
Of personage pearles and in wisdom alone,  
In corage and countenaunce none lyke is serue,  
So discrete in dalliance was neuer none,  
Where is your comfort, care can bee none,  
Loe here our wand, approach nere to this place,  
That we may kisse you, and in our armes embrace,  
What aske you ladye, and what do you demaunde  
Halfe our realme is yours, yf ye commaunde,  
Hester.

here thei  
kysse.

Noble prince and our espouse most deare,  
Since that to aske ye haue geuen me libertie,  
I besech your grace, with heart most entier  
That it may please you this day to dine with me  
Eke my lord Aman I woulde be glad to see  
At the same banquet for to take repaste

Assuerus.

Call vs in Aman that we may go in haste,

Aman.

I am here ready to atende vpon your grace.

Assuerus.

Then let vs go while we haue tyme and space.  
Lady Hester our moste beloued Quene,  
So power and so exauisite is thys repaste,  
Both of wine and meate that no better may beene,  
yours mirth eke and manners so pleasaunte to attaste,  
That for to departe we make no maner haste,  
Eke our presence we knowe is to yours pleasure,  
Farre better than golde or any worldly treasure.

Here  
must bee  
prepared  
a banquet  
in y place

wherfore as we sayde we wolde ye shoulde demaunde

C.ii.

And

The enterlude of quene Hester  
And at your pleasure, your petition make  
The one halfe of our reame, yf ye it cumunaund  
we shall with departe, only for your sake  
and of it to you, a playne surrender make  
and the more ye aske, wyth louinge intente  
the more we shall geue, and the better be contente  
Hester.

Noble prynce your hye magnyficens  
your bounte, and espiECIAL grace  
So ofte and so kyndlye doeth incense,  
To make request som profite to purchase,  
So þ longer delay were in me great trespase,  
and by þ also your grace right wel may it thinke  
That finally your loue vnto my heart did sinke.  
Wherfore this fauoure sence I haue obtayned  
Of your grace to haue any my requeste  
This I do aske with true harte vnfayned  
and wyth charitie, of all vertues best,

That throw all your reame both east and west  
As manye as bee of the Jewyſhe nation,  
your grace wil them pardon at my supplication

Alurynge you I am of that nation,  
Borne and eke brede in Ierusalem,  
yet I and all they by one condempnation,  
To deathe are determined throughe all this realme,  
No remedy: leise your pardon vs redeme,  
we woulde rather we myght be solde to bondage,  
Than thus to peryſhe, by fury and outrage

Aluerus.

what is he, or what is hys authoritie,  
That is so bolde thys acte to attempt,  
Hester.

It is



**The enterlude of Queene Hester.**

It is Aman that by cruell enuy  
Is oure mortall enymye and wold vs interrupt  
That our lyfe and godes from vs were adempte  
Then wold he rule all and if he myght to all get  
And all shoulde not suffice, so hie his heart is set.

Hys pompe and hys pryde, so muche is in dede,  
That yf he had all, it coulde him not suffice,  
At thys tyme hys treasure youres doeth excede,  
And yet content is he in no wyse,  
But to gette moore daylye he doeth deuise,  
The commons he extorteth tyll they bee lame  
He takes the profyt and ye beare the name.  
But better it were that he shulde suffer payne  
Than thus by crafte, your honour to dystaine  
By his false leasinges, he putteth other in blame  
Deludinge youre grace, when he lyst to fayne  
And no man so worthy for to suffer payne,  
As he him selfe that by hys poyson and gall,  
Hath deceyued you, and eke youre commons all.

**Assuerus.**

He signified vnto me that the Jewes did  
Not feede the poore by hospitalitie:  
Their possessions he sayde, were all but hydde,  
Amonge them selues luyng voluptuouslye,  
Thinkyng the same might be verely,  
Much better employed for the common weale,  
where now it litle profiteth or neuer a deale.

**Hester.**

Noble prince as for hospitalite,  
Of the Jewes dwellinge in your regyon  
It is with them as alwayes hath bene  
Sins the beginning of their possession

**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

which god to them gaue, of his mere mocion,  
Eke great knowledge both of cattell and of grayne  
That none to them like household coulde maintayne,  
Is not of Abraham the hospytallyte,  
In scripture noted and of noble fame,  
But one honoring when he receiued thee,  
The trenite figured in the same,  
Both Isaake and Jacob had a lyke name,  
Of whom the twelue tribes descended be,  
which euer dyd maintaine hospitallite.

Since god therfore hath begunne theyre household,  
And ay hath preserved theyre hospitallite,  
I aduise noman to be so bolde,  
The same to dissolue what so euer he be,  
Let God alone for he shall orderly,  
A fine ad finem, both here and there  
Omnia disponere suauiter.

**Alluerus.**

O kaytiffe moste crafty o false dissembler,  
with thy flatteringe tonge thou haste deceyued me,  
All noble princes by me may be ware,  
whom they shall truste and put in auctorite,  
Eke whom they shall promote to ryches and dignite.  
But we shall teache the good for thine ingratitude,  
And by the all other theyre prince to delude.

**Aman.**

O lady Hester moste noble princeesse,  
Of thine honour and goodnes soueraine,  
Extende to me that pitie or els doutles,  
To deathe I am dreaed and mortall payne,  
I wotte I haue deserued it for certaine,  
And againste the my offence is great,

where



The enterlude of Queene Hester.

wherefore vneth I dare thy goodnesse entreate,  
But trueth is, the merite of thys is better  
And God it more accepteth a thousande fold  
Agaynst whome the offence is greater  
And of them that of iniurie coulde not tell me  
wherefore to speake somewhat it makes me bolde  
To encrease thy merite and rewarde heauenlye  
Saue my life and I thy seruaunte shall be.

Hester.

Aman this mitter so heinous is in dede  
That of our honour we wyll nother speake nor speede

Aman.

Alas then am I vtterlye marred  
I must streighte die it can not be deferred.

Alluerus.

O thou kaytysse canste thou not be contente,  
with the mischesse by the done before,  
But the quene wylt oppresse, we beinge presente  
what nede we call for euidence moore  
Make him sure and fast and therto bind him soze  
we will that oure counsell shortlye deuice,  
How we shalbe bestow him acco:dyng to iustice

Arbona.

There is in the house of thys traitour Aman  
A paire of galowes of fiftie cubites hie  
Upo them he had thought either now or than  
To haue caused Hardocheus to die.

Alluerus.

Leade him hence, and vpon them by and by  
See that ye hange him, and so stoppe his breathe  
without fauoure see he suffer deathe.

Hardydarde.

other

The enterlude of Quene Hester.

Other folkes be tardye, as wel as hardy dardy  
By this reckeninge  
A sy: besyde belles, bacon and somewhat els,  
Must nedes haue hanginge.

Allswerus.

Hanginge doe serue, when they that deserue,  
Are false feytoures Hardy dardy.  
And it commes to lottes, of heringes and sprottes  
which be no traytours  
To hange in the smoke, til they chaunge their cloke  
from white to redde.

Allswerus.

But such do no wronge, wherfore they do not honge  
Tyl they be ded.

Hardy dardy.

ye speake somewhat like, for it toucheth the quicke  
To be hanged in good heale

Allswerus.

yet none nede to care, that is wyse and ware  
And truly wyll deale

Hardy dardy

Haue ye not rede, of Rase Ouide,  
That eloquent Poet,  
Nor Valery, which telles merely,  
The proper feates,  
How the synthy Petillus, like a fusa dilus  
Made a bull of bras  
He had thought it wis, to haue pleased king Phalaris  
But yet he dtd much worse,

Allswerus.

why so?

Hardy dardy.

I wene



The enterlude of Quene Hester.

I wene by god he made a rodde,  
For his owne ars,  
Phalaris coulde not get with in the bull to sett,  
Lo here beginnes the game,  
wherefore in dede he toke for nede,  
Perillus maker of the same.

In he did him turne and made the fier to burne  
And greatly to increace,  
He cait him in such heate and eke in such sweate,  
He fried him in his greace,

Alluerus.

what meane you by this.

Hardydardy.

I wyll tell you by gis my hole intencion.  
I meane my master is the fyrste taster,  
Of his owne inuencion.

The gallhouse he made both hye and brode,  
For Hardocheus he them mente,  
And now he is faine him selfe for certaine,  
To play the fyrste pagente.

Alluerus.

He that deserues payne is worthy certaine,  
Euen for to haue it.

Hardydardy.

Therefore god sende all those, that will steale mens  
That once they may goe naked. (clothes,

Arbona.

If it please your grace this traitoure Aman,  
we haue put to deathe as was your cummaundment.

Alluerus.

Then shall we freighte as well as we canne,  
Bestowe his goodes for he made no testamente.

f.i.

Lady

**The enterlude of quene Hester**

**Lady hester this is our intent**

**The house of Aman with all his treasure,  
we geue it you, do with all youre pleasure.**

**Hester.**

**I thanke your grace with harte entyre,  
Nowe dare I be bolde to shewe you the playnesse,  
Of my minde, since Hardocheus is heare  
If it please your grace the truth is doutles,  
All be it or now I dyd it not confesse,  
This Hardocheus is for certayne,  
My fathers brother, no longer I wyll it leyne  
A gentyll man he is, for lynyallye  
He is borne of the stocke of Beniaminy,**

**Aluerus.**

**we be ryghte gladde we know his linage,  
Hys truth to vs befoze was knowen well,  
we wyll him aduauce accordynge hys parage,  
Holde Hardocheus here is our ryng and seale,  
It is our truste ye wyll with iustice deale,  
we commytte therfoze vnto youre wyse discrecion,  
Of all thys prouince iudgemente and cozection.**

**Hardocheus.**

**I thanke youre grace trustinge ye shall not heare,  
In all thynges but as iustice doth requyre,**

**Hester.**

**Noble prince and our espouse moste deare,  
I beseeche youre grace at my supplcation,  
The precepte youre grace sente at Amans desyre,  
Against me and all the Jewishe nation,  
May be reuoked and vpon conuocation  
A new deuised by them that can do best,  
And that sente forth to set the Jewes at rest.**

**More.**



**The enterlude of Quene Hester.**

More ouer lett the realme be perused  
By them that be of your hye counsell  
And if any haue the lawe abused  
Of all the Jewes with in youre comon weale  
Let them not spare correction to deale  
And strayghtly constrayne them selfe to addresse  
To obserue that law god gaue them by Moses

The Jewes be the people of god elected  
And weare his badg of cyrcumcision  
The dayly prayer of that hole secte  
As the psalmes of Dauid by gostly inspiracion  
The holy ceremonies of gods prouision  
To god is baileable, that nothing greater,  
And al the whole realme for the fares þ better.

**Assuerus.**

Stand ye by Lady, and approche ye neare  
your petition we graunte it gladlye,  
**Hester.**

Than if it please your graace to heare,  
This epistle is made to the sealyng readye.

**Assuerus.**

Let it be red that it maye by and by  
Be sealed and consigned, and so furthe sent  
and than I truste ye shall be content.

**Scriba.**

Ube Assuerus kynge, and highe regent  
from India to Ethiopia plaine  
Send gretinge and straighe commaundement,  
To all the heades and rulers certaine,  
wyllyng they should vpon a great payne,  
In a hundreth prouinces, and seuen and twentye

Here the  
Scribe  
doeth re-  
de þ kig-  
es letter.

f.ii.

Al

**The enterlude of quene Hester**  
**All men compell to this our decre**

All though it be so our preceptes that be sente  
Be of dyuerse nature, and playne repugnant  
When ye know our myad ye shalbe contente  
To thinke it no lyghtnes, no: wytte in constante  
But the necessytie of tymes varyant  
And as cause requereth for the vtullyte  
Of our hole reame heedes and comynalte

And to the entent ye may knowe our playne mynde  
The sonne of Amadathy called Aman  
A Macedone borne and lyke to theyr owne kynde  
Not of our nation, as all men tell can  
Whiche by his sutteltye, both now and than  
Our gentelnes so in fecteth for certayne  
That neare we were lyke all Jewes to haue slayne

we fauored hym that he was called  
Our father, and all men dyd to hym honoure  
But his harte wyth pryde, so strongly was walled  
That by his slyght and crafty demeanoure  
Had we not espyed his subtile behauoure  
He wolde haue dystroyd quene Hester our wyfe  
And from vs at the lengthe haue taken our lyfe

But as for the Jewes, we found them innocente  
And without all blame though to death they were dyth  
Wherfore Aman we thought it conuenient  
To hang hym tyll the death accordyng to ryght  
Within Susis our noble cetye of myghte  
Not only our dede no: yet theyr chans no: late

**But**



The enterlude of Queene Hester.  
But goddes owne Justice what so euer they prate,

This our precepte and hye cunmaundimente,  
we wolde to all cities ye shoulde declare.  
This is our purpose and veri entente,  
The Jewes to theyre lawes them selve shoulde prepare  
Duely to kepe them and not from them square,  
And no man to hurt them see ye remember,  
As it was mente the .xiii. day of December,  
Dated at Sulis this is certayne,  
The .iiii. day of December the .iii. yeare of our raine.  
Aluerus.

This is well se it be sealed anon,  
And that euery citie of them may haue one,  
Now madam I truste ye be conteute.  
Hester.

yea and that veramente,  
May it now please you your selfe to repose  
Aluerus.

Uery well saue fyrst we wol disclose,  
Parte of our mynde which we thinke necessary,  
If it be well hard we truste it shall edifye,  
My Lordes by this fygure ye may well se,  
The multitude hurte by the heades negligence,  
If to his pleasure so geuen is he,  
That he will no paine take nor dilligence,  
who careth not for his cure ofte loseth credence,  
A prouerbe of olde sume time in vsage,  
Few men that serue but for theyre owne aduauntage.  
Hester.

And yet the seruantes that bee but true,

**The enterlude of Queene Hester.**

**A whyle in the world they: lyfe may they leade,  
yea they: welth and worshippe dayly renewe,  
But at the length I aswore you in dede,  
They: fauell and falsehed wyll come abrede,  
whiche shall be to them more bytter than gall,  
The hygher they clyme the deper they fall,**

**Answerus.**

**Let vs then cesse thys conuocatione,  
And this tyme dyssolue this congregation.**

**Hester.**

**That lyke as here they haue lynced deuoutly,  
So god graunt them in heauen to lyue eternally,**

**Answerus.**

**To the which we committe all this company.**

**¶ ¶ ¶**

**Imprynted at London by Wyllyam Pickerynge  
and Thomas Hacket, and are to be solde at  
theyre shoppes.**





